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EXAMINER

KE, PENG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2174

17

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/503,137

Applicant(s)

MATTHEWS ET AL.

Examiner

Peng Ke

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-50,52,56,59-68 and 72-87 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-50,52,56,59-68 and 72-87 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment, filed on 4/9/03.
2. Claims 18-50, 52, 56, 59-68 and 72-87 are pending in this application. Claims 18, 21, 27, 29, 47, 56, 59, 68, 72 and 87 are independent claims. In the Amendment, filed on 4/9/03, claims 18, 19, 21, 27, 29, 31 are amended, and claim 72-87 are added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 18-33, 35-41, 46-50, 52, 59-68, and 72-87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Straub (US 5,905,492).

As per independent claims 18, Straub teaches in a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing and selecting from the user interface, comprising:

Maintaining information about a resource persistently stored in the computer system (col. 6, lines 31-43), the resource including at least one of a document, a program, a task stored in the computer system, and a device of the computer system (col 12, lines 10-16);

Displaying a first page comprising:

A first link associated with a second page (col 15, lines 8-34); and

A second link associated with first resource code according to the information (col 12, lines 1-16);

In response to a signal indicative of a selection of the first link via the user interface, displaying the second (col 15, lines 8-34); and

In response to a signal indicative of a selection of the second link via the user interface, taking action with respect to the first resource code, wherein the first and the second page are part of a shell user interface having a plurality of pages arranged in a hierarchy to display information about the resource, and wherein each page of the plurality of pages that is lower in the hierarchy is reachable through at least one other page of the plurality of pages that is higher in the hierarchy through at least one link on the other page (fig 6, col 15, lines 7-45).

As per claim 19, Straub teaches the method of claim 18, further comprising:

Displaying on the second page a third link associated with a third page and a fourth link associated with a second resource according to information in the database;

In response to a signal indicative of a selection of the third link via the user interface displaying the third page; and

In response to a signal indicative of a selection of the fourth link via the user interface, taking action with respect to the second resource (col. 15, lines 38-45).

As per claim 20, Straub teaches a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instruction for performing the method recited in claim 18 (col. 15, lines 38-45)

As per independent claim 21, Straub teaches in a computer having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing and selecting from the user interface, comprising:

Displaying a link on a first page, the link being associated with a task that is available in an application program persistently stored in the computer system (col. 6, lines 39-46, col 12, lines 1-16; It is inherent for the client program to be persistently stored on the client's computer); and

In response to a signal indicative of the a selection of the link via the user interface, taking action with respect to the task (col 12, lines 1-16).

As per claim 22, Straub teaches the method of claim 21, wherein taking action comprises starting operation of the task (col. 5, lines 43-44; col. 12, lines 5).

As per claim 23, Straub teaches the method of claim 21, wherein taking action comprises opening a second page directed to the task (col. 5, lines 43-44; col. 12, lines 5).

As per claim 24, Straub teaches the method of the claim 23, further comprising:

Displaying a link on the second page, the link on the second page being associated with the task; and

In response to a signal indicative of a selection of the link on the second page via the user interface, starting operation of the task (col. 15, lines 38-45)

Claim 25, Straub teaches the method of claim 21, further comprising:

Displaying a plurality of links on a first page (fig. 6 items 162-166), each of the links being associated with a different task for the application program and

In response to a signal indicative of a selection of one of the links via the user interface taking with respect to the task associated with the link (col. 15, lines 38-45).

Claim 26 is similar in scope to claim 21, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

The limitations of claim 27 are similar in scope to claim 24 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale. In addition Straub teaches grouping a set of the tasks (fig.6, Folder Content Icons Pane).

As per claim 28, Srtaub teaches a computer-readable medium having computer-executable intruction for performing the method recited in claim 27 (col. 5, lines 46-64)

As per claims 29-30, Straub teaches in a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing and selecting from the user interface, comprising:

Providing a shell user interface having a plurality of pages including a first page, wherein the plurality of pages are arranged in a hierarchy, and wherein each of the plurality of he pages that is lower in the hierarchy is reachable through at least on other page of the plurality of pages that is higher in the hierarchy through at least one hyperlink on the other page (fig 5, fig 6, col 12, lines 1-35);

maintaining information about locally-stored files (col.15, lines 34-42);

displaying on the first page, according to the information about the locally-stored files, a file link for each of the locally-stored files that are grouped together (fig.7, folder content icons pane);

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of one of the file links via the user interface, taking action with respect to the locally-stored file associated with the file link (co1.15, lines 39-43);

As per claim 31, which is dependent on claim 87, Straub teaches the claim 87, wherein the web links are grouped together one the first page. (fig. 6 items 162-165)

As per claim 32, Straub teaches the locally-stored file associated with the file link to comprise executable code (col.1, lines 54-57; inherent in order for operating system to know which program file to run).

As per claim 33, Straub teaches the method wherein taking action with respect to the locally-stored file associated with the file link to comprise launching an instance of the executable code (col.1, lines 54-57).

As per claim 35, Straub teaches the locally-stored file associated with the file link to comprise a document (col.1, lines 54-57).

As per claim 36, Straub teaches the method wherein taking action with respect to the locally-stored file associated with the file link to comprise displaying the document (col.1, lines 54-57).

Claim 37 is similar in scope to claim 24, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 38 is similar in scope to claim 27, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 39 is similar in scope to claim 28, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 40 is similar in scope to claim 22, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 41 is similar in scope to claim 23, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 46 is similar in scope to claim 28, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 47, Straub teaches in a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing and selecting from the user interface, comprising:

maintaining information about executable code (col.5, lines 43-46; inherent in order for operating system to know which program file to run) persistently stored in the computer system

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(col 3, lines 45-68; Examiner interprets persistently storing URL to be persistently storing a resource);

maintaining information about files, the information including at least one item of information about each file (col.1, lines 54-57);

displaying on a first page, a tile having a task link and at least one file link, the file link being associated with a particular item of information about a file, and the item link being associated with at least one executable code according to the information about executable codes (fig.5, desktop icons pane; col.12, lines 4-5);

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the file link via the user interface, taking action with respect to the executable code associated with the file that is associated with the file link (col. 1, lines 63-65); and

in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the task link via the user interface, taking action with respect to item associated with the item link (col.1, lines 63-65).

As per claim 48, Straub teaches the link to be associated with a document produced by the executable code (col. 1, lines 54-57)

As per claim 49, Straub teaches the link to be associated with a link to a web location (col. 12, lines 32-33)

As per claim 50, Straub teaches the file to comprise a program (col.1, line 54).

As per claim 52, Straub teaches the claim 47, Straub teaches wherein the tile comprises a plurality of item links, each of the item links being associated with a particular item of information about the file (col. 2, lines 20-34), and further comprising:

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In response to a signal indicative of a selection of one of the item links via the user interface, taking action with respect to item associate with the selected item link (col. 15, lines 34-44).

As per claim 59, it is rejected with rationale as claim 18 (see rejection above).

As per claim 60, it is of the scope as claim 35. (see rejection above)

As per claim 61, Straub teaches method of claim 60, wherein taking action comprises opening the document (col. 2, lines 20-34)

As per claim 62, Straub teaches the method of claim 60, wherein taking action comprises creating the document (col. 1, lines 63-64).

As per claim 63, Straub teaches the method of claim 60, wherein taking action comprises using the document as a target (is similar in scope to claim 62, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale (col. 2, lines 20-34).

As per claim 64, Straub teaches the method of the claim 59, wherein associating information to comprise associating metadata with the document (col. 1, lines 54-56; inherent that document include metadata such as the size pathname of the document in order to distinguish it from other documents).

Claim 65, Straub teaches the method of claim 59, further comprising:

Displaying on another page in the shell user interface, a link associated with the file according to the information about the particular page (col. 15, line 40-45)

Receiving a signal indicative via the user interface of a selection of the link associated with the file (col. 15, lines 40-45)

Claim 66, Straub teaches the method of claim 59, where in the file comprises a document, and taking action with respect to the file comprises displaying the file (col. 2, lines 20-34).

Claim 67 is similar in scope to claim 65, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per independent claim 68, Straub et al. teaches in a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing and selecting from the user interface, comprising:

Maintaining information about associations between files and executable code (col 12, lines 1 –16);

Providing a shell user interface having a plurality of pages, wherein the plurality of pages are arranged in a hierarchy, and wherein each page of the plurality of pages that is lower in the hierarchy is reachable through at least one other page of the plurality of pages that is higher in the hierarchy through at least one hyperlink on the other page (col 15, lines 8-34);

Maintaining information about association between pages of the shell user interface and executable code (col 12, lines 1 –16);

Displaying a particular page in the shell user interface, a link associated with a file according to the file association information and the information about association between pages of the shell user interface and the executable code (col 15, lines 8-34);

Receiving a signal indication of the selection of the link via the user interface; and taking action with respect to the file in response to the signal (fig 6, item 170)

As per claim 72, it is similar in scope to the combination of claim 18-19, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 73, Straub et al. teaches wherein the links each comprise a hyperlink and the user interface is embodied as an HTML created page (col. 1, lines 54-57, col. 8, lines 26-42).

As per claim 74, Straub et al. teaches the method of claim 72, wherein the resource further includes at least one of system information stored on a remote computer coupleable to the computer system by the internet, and the link is associated with a link to a web location of the system (col. 12, lines 37-39; server is queried for associated links to be displayed).

As per claim 75, Straub et al. teaches the method of claim 74, wherein the link to a web location is display on the particular page in accordance with a query to a remote location (col. 12, lines 37-39; server is queried for associated links to be displayed)

As per claim 76, Straub et al. teaches the method of claim 75, wherein content corresponding to the link to a web location is stored locally, making the content available for display when the computer system is not connected to the remote source (col. 12, lines 21-23).

As per claim 77, Straub et al. teaches the method of claim 74, wherein the resource comprises network access software, and wherein taking action comprises accessing the web location with the network access software (col. 12, lines 32-34).

As per claim 78, Straub et al. teaches the method of claim 77, wherein the resource comprises network access software, and wherein taking action comprises accessing locally-saved content from the web location with the network access software when a connection to the web location is not provided. (col. 5, lines 40-50, col. 7, lines 23-60)

As per claim 79, it is of the same scope as claim 75. (see rejection above)

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As per claim 80, Straub et al. teaches the method of 79, wherein the resource further includes a remote device, and the link is associated with the remote device location (Fig. 7, col. 10, lines 61-68, col. 11, lines 1-5).

As per claim 81, it is of the same scope as claim 22. (see rejection above)

As per claim 82, it is of the same scope as claim 23. (see rejection above)

As per claim 83, it is of the same scope as claim 24. (see rejection above)

As per claim 84, it is of the same scope as claim 26. (see rejection above)

As per claim 85, it is of the same scope as claim 28. (see rejection above)

As per claim 86, it is of the same scope as claim 75. (see rejection above)

As per claim 87, it is of the same scope as claim 24. (see rejection above)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Straub et al. ("Straub", US 5,905,492).

As per claim 34, Straub teaches the method wherein taking action with respect to the locally-stored file associated with the file link comprises displaying an instance of the executable

code. However, Straub does not explicitly disclose the instance to be an already-opened instance of the executable code.

Official Notice is given that it was well known in the art at the time of the invention that the selection of links to currently opened files brings the instance of that file to the top of the display. It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to display an already-opened instance of a file in response to selection of the file link in order to conserve the memory used by the system.

5. Claims 42-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Straub et al. ("Straub", US 5,905,492) in view of Hirose (US 5,745,112).

As per claim 42, Straub teaches the method further comprising: maintaining information about a task that is available from an application program and displaying, according to the information about the task, a task link on the first page, the task link being associated with the task (col.5, lines 43-44; col.12, line 5).

However, Straub does not disclose taking action with respect to the task on the file associated with the file link, in response to a signal indicative of selection of the task link and a file link via the user interface. Hirose teaches a method of using a shell user interface for manipulating files whereby links to tasks and files are displayed and action is taking on the file according to the selected task (col.6, lines 40-65). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Hirose's teaching with Straub's method in order to provide a more convenient and faster means of performing an operation on a file.

Claim 43 is similar in scope to claim 24, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 44 is similar in scope to claim 23, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

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Claim 45 is similar in scope to claim 42, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

6. Claim 56 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slivka et al. ("Slivka", US 6,061,695) in view of Dickman et al. ("Dickman", US 5,877,765).

As per claim 56, Slivka teaches in a computer system having a graphical user interface and a user interface selection device, a method of providing a menu on the user interface, comprising:

providing a shell user interface that enables the display of one or more pages (col.6, lines 4-5 and lines 20-21); and

making an option available while displaying each of a plurality of pages, the option being associated with a file system comprising a plurality of favorites folders (fig.3, favorites menu button 206; col.10, lines 65-67).

However, Slivka does not explicitly teach the steps wherein response to a signal indicative of a selection of the option when a first page is displayed in the shell user interface, writing information about the first page into a selected one of the favorites folders, displaying on a second page a link to the first page according to the information in the one favorites folder, and in response to a signal indicative of a selection of the link via the user interface, displaying the first page. Dickman teaches a method of providing a menu on a user interface wherein the menu provides an option for adding a page to a favorites folder and displaying the page in response to selecting the link to the added page (col.7, lines 1-20). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Dickman's teaching with Slivka's method in order to provide a faster means of bookmarking frequently used pages for easier access.

Response to Argument

Applicant's arguments filed on 1/06/04/ have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's argument focused on the following major issues:

- A) Straub neither discloses maintaining information about a resource, nor a second link associated with a first resource according to the information.
- B) Straub fails to teach the pages are displayed in a hierarchy.
- C) Straub fails to teach tasks that are available for a plurality of application programs persistently stored in the computer system.
- D) Straub does not disclose maintaining information about locally-stored files.

Examiner disagrees

A) Straub teaches storing maintaining information regarding a plurality of channels of information that can be displayed on the view port (col. 12, lines 45-50). Straub further teaches providing a link for users to change the content providers (col. 12, lines 45-50).

B) Straub teaches the pages been stored in a hierarchy (fig. 6). As it is illustrated in fig.6, wherein the folder content are under folder, and them hypertext page is under folder content.

C) Straub teaches application program and the theme that is currently been displayed are persistently stored on the client computer (col. 7, lines 22-31)

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D) Straub teaches maintaining and updated theme related files, which are locally stored on the client's computer (col. 7, lines 22-32, 61-68, col. 8, lines 1-3)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peng Ke whose telephone number is (703) 305-7615. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and Alternate Fridays 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L Kincaid can be reached on (703) 308-0640. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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